

What's Inside

Valet Parking
Meet Your Neighbor
Waterfront Update
Spring Cocktail Party
(see back cover)

February 1985
No. 90



TELEGRAPH HILL SEMAPHORE

Publication of the Telegraph Hill Dwellers

President's Message

I want to take this opportunity to thank you all for the honor of serving as Telegraph Hill Dwellers' president for the past two years. I have proudly represented you with the City Planning Department staff, the Planning Commission, and the Board of Supervisors. I have espoused our philosophies at meetings with other neighborhood groups and with merchants.

There are many recent victories of which we can be proud. But these "victories" are evidenced by "no shows": no new savings and loans, no 672-sq.-ft. billboards on Columbus Ave., no further conversions of residential units to commercial use, no 12-story office building excavated 80 feet into the side of Telegraph Hill (1171 Sansome). I don't take credit for these "no-shows"; they were accomplished with the help of many Telegraph Hill Dwellers' members and supporters who wrote letters, made phone calls, spoke at hearings, and attended meetings. Thank you all for your energy, interest, and influence.

Telegraph Hill/North Beach is one of San Francisco's most popular tourist attractions. People come here, enjoy our neighborhood, and probably never realize the effort that has gone into maintaining the high quality of life we enjoy—thanks, in large part, to the Telegraph Hill Dwellers! Good luck to our new president and board members. Here's to even more "no shows" in the future!

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Vice President	*Greg Jones	58 Edgardo	986-6412
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Corresponding Secretary	Tom Havey	529 Vallejo	391-5524
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Financial Secretary	Rhoda Robinson	276 Francisco	781-5221
Historian	Nan Roth	2017 Grant	397-2176
Editor— <i>Semaphore</i>	Lynne Burwell	321 Chestnut	982-9715

*denotes Executive Committee

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Peter Dewees	568 Greenwich	981-1894
Virginia Sletteland	448 Greenwich	781-4352
Jerry Lubenow	300 Lombard	788-2651

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	Jeanne Milligan	486 Union	989-0494
	Jack Moss	265 Telegraph Hill	781-4077
	Bob Tibbits	386 Chestnut	986-7227
Ex Officio	*Jerry Petruzzelli	288 Union	397-6043

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Membership	Rhoda Robinson	276 Francisco	781-5221
Program	Peter Dewees	568 Greenwich	981-1894
<i>Semaphore</i>	Lynne Burwell	321 Chestnut	982-9715

SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

Planning and Zoning	Jane Winslow	396 Lombard	421-1466
Landmarks	Nan Roth	2017 Grant	397-2176
Waterfront	Bob Katz	2 Whiting	986-1890
Parks and Trees	Nancy McCabe	355 Lombard	397-0924
Crime Prevention	June Fraps	1941 Stockton	392-1187
Refuse	Pat Brown	12 Aladdin	775-7528
Parking	Nancy Katz	2 Whiting	986-1890
Movies	Margaret Gwathmey	273 Green	982-4221
Neighborhood Liaison	Sue Cauthen	1321B Montgomery	391-0737
Social	Jeanne Milligan	486 Union	989-0494
Clean Water	Jerry Petruzzelli	288 Union	397-6043

MEMBERS: Please call these chairs and volunteer to serve today!

The Issue Is Traffic!

The Board of Directors is concerned about new office buildings being proposed in the Sansome-Battery corridor. A number of the developers for these office buildings are requesting variances for "valet" or "attendant" parking. The board is concerned that granting these variances will increase traffic in our neighborhood.

We know of seven buildings proposed for this corridor. Developers and city planners are viewing the area as an extension of downtown, while we see it as a natural extension of our neighborhood. It provides a transition between where we live and the waterfront with its recreation and shipping activities. It should be a place where people can live, work, and relax.

An increasing number of automobiles looking for parking places will increase congestion in North Beach. With the advent of Levi Plaza, more developers have been seizing the opportunity to make money by building high rent office buildings below the Hill.

The City Planning Code requires one parking space for every 500 square feet of office space. This is based on the assumption that every office building contains a certain number of people who will drive to work. Without addressing whether the number is correct, we agree that the assumption is reasonable.

We are against variances for valet parking. A good valet parking service can park approximately twice the number of cars in the same area set aside for self-parking. Once a variance is granted, there is no guarantee that the Planning Department can force the owner to maintain the valet parking. Experience has shown that it is difficult to police



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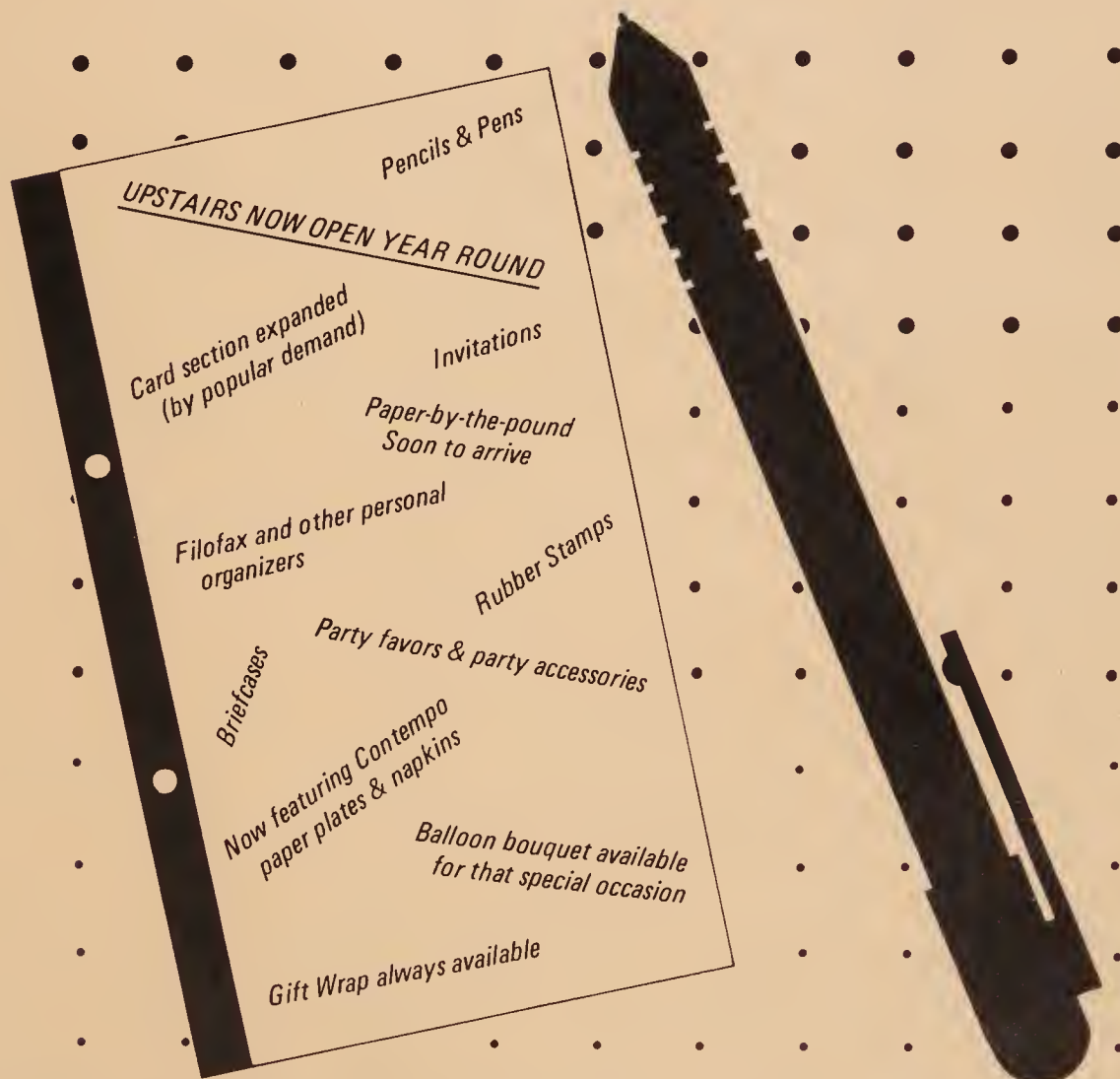
owners who decide for one reason or another not to continue valet parking. Thus we could be faced with parking being provided for only half the number of cars that the Planning Code claims would be generated. The other cars will be forced to roam the streets looking for other parking; worst of all, they could find their way up the Hill and park on our streets. Slack enforcement of the residential parking program makes this a very likely event. More office buildings mean more cars and more traffic in our neighborhood.

Developers want valet parking, since it means they don't have to dig as deep and their buildings will cost less to construct. It's only fair that developers pay the normal price of construction and not try to pass along some of the costs to the neighborhood. In fact, we think they ought to provide amenities with their office buildings over and above what is now required by the code to insure us that the "creeping," commercial downtown will not threaten the quality of life that we now enjoy.

A committee consisting of Nan Roth, Margaret Gwathmey, and Jim Ricereto is currently drafting guidelines for developers who want to build in the Sansome-Battery corridor. That will be the subject of a future article in the *Semaphore*.

Another "valet" parking issue in our neighborhood is parking in front of restaurants. The valets are restricting the traffic flow on some of our streets. It has been observed that they have been also parking the cars illegally. If you see this as a problem, you should get involved with our parking committee.

DEPARTMENTS



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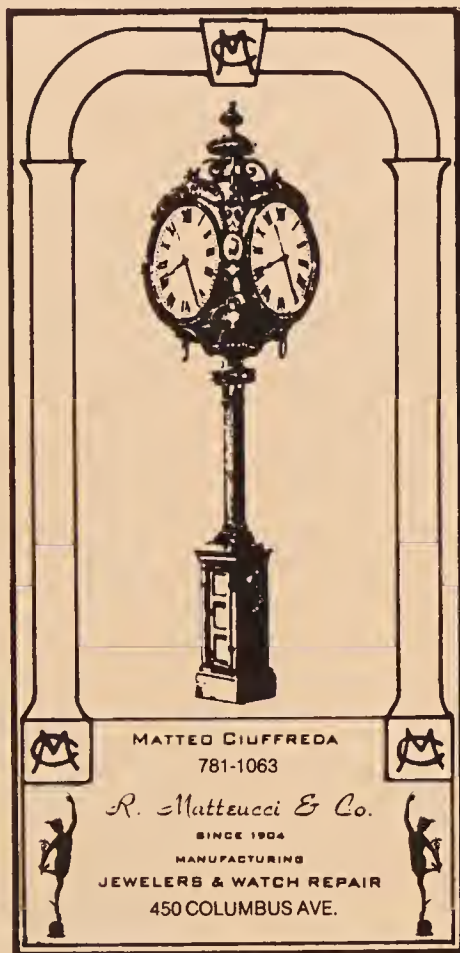
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Semaphore Excerpts (con't.)

Issue #6 has this memoriam for a cat: "Cass, the \$1000 cat. Age: ten years plus. Weight: 30 pounds. Probable cause of death: heart attack (Dr. Paul Dudley White was unavailable for comment.) Cass was the left-hand member of brothers Castor and Pollux, two enormous white cats with freeform gold markings, originally owned by a young man living in Greenwich Street compound. Cass was startling not only in size, but in his affinity for water: he loved to climb into full sinks, and play with garden hoses. Young owner became remiss on rent . . . remiss and remiss and remiss . . . and finally departed, apologetically presenting landlords Valetta and Desmond Haslet with Cass, in sincere gratitude for \$1000 worth of free rent. Cass was a veterinarian's marvel, the butcher's best customer, the alcoholic's fright, a mobile landmark on the lower east side of Telegraph Hill. His loss is keenly felt."

From issue #5 comes a piece on mining on Telegraph Hill: "Gold quartz and nuggets have been found on the Hill many times in the early days, long before Emperor Norton and his more recently buried treasure. The daughter of no less than Governor John McDougal found gold quartz while playing at the base of the Hill. She broke off a sample, showed it to her father, who confirmed her discovery. However, returning to the site, she was unable to identify her location, and although many willing, in fact eager, hands joined in the search, it was never found . . . Broadway and Grant was the scene of a discovery in 1851, but after digging a fifty-foot tunnel, the vein pinched out to nothing . . . Later that year (September 29) a gold quartz vein was discovered about Clark's Point (Battery near Broadway, the site of the first ship's wharf in San Francisco) while grading

a street, but after a brief flurry of excitement, it too pinched out. In 1852, gold was found near the top of the Hill, and a year later, on October 22, on Green Street between Grant and Stockton, a well digger found seven nuggets after going down thirty feet. Along about 1878, after a heavy rain storm of several days, gold was panned near the present Filbert Steps for a few days. Near this same spot in 1936, after an old house had been demolished, and the refuse burned, people raking through the ashes found about \$20 in silver coins which had been hidden and forgotten in the years gone by. Lignite was found on the Hill in 1884. Building stone quarrying took place for many years, but that is a story for another time."

Bulletin #1 reports six hundred members, about the same as we have at present.

Issue # (August 1958) reports that the "third annual open air concert was held on the Filbert Steps, at the corner of Napier Lane. Sponsored by Edith Hyler and Grace Marchant (who somehow found time to play the Hammond organ as well as manufacture jewelry and pottery), the pleasant voices provided enjoyment for an appreciative audience—some seated on chairs, more on the steps, and still more listened from neighboring balconies. Another concert is planned for next year.

Editor's Farewell

This will be my last issue as editor of the *Semaphore*. Kathleen Cannon will be taking over as new editor. As a sendoff, this *Semaphore* contains 32 pages of news, up from its original 24 pages.

**CURB YOURSELF,
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A Mountain Man Comes To Telegraph Hill

Have you ever dashed off to a highly touted restaurant or hot night spot only to find a line of fellow hopefuls winding a block or more from the door? Excellence and novelty attract, and the queue seems to be a given in the city. Ironically, it was the same problem, encountering a crowd, that gave birth to the wilderness newsletter of THD's newest resident writer, Stuart Weiss. In his own words, the 8 issue/year *California Explorer* was born when Weiss, a refuge from Madison Avenue's ad scene, impulsively moved west, to photograph the grandeur of the Sierra Nevada and experience the freedom of wilderness walking.

Filling his rented backpack with camera gear, he trekked off to sleep under the stars—and what he found was a crowd. The inviting trails in guide books were crowded, and the information from rangers inaccurate (“... the person answering the phone had often not been out the back door.”) This misleading or missing trail information for weekend hikes and backpackers challenged Stuart. He created his own network of back country contacts, accessed state aerial surveys, and used the data to publish current information in a newsletter, “Northern California Explorer.” The first issue came out in 1974. Drawing on his business experience and a friend's writing background, they learned from their mistakes during two years of seat-of-the-pants publishing. Finally, overwhelmed, they quit.

In 1978, a rejuvenated Stuart started the “California Explorer.” After six years of publishing, hundreds of miles of walking and endless hours with pen and paper, that determination has paid off. Contributing writers offer their own favorite trails and hideaways.

Stuart's myriad misadventures and the frustrations and dangers he dealt with in his efforts to find the very best routes are the very grain of the *California Explorer*. In addition, he focuses his photographer's eye on the natural wonders of California, concentrating on the geographical make-up and history of the areas he travels.

The trails described in the *California Explorer* are back trails with breathtaking views free from crowds. They are also subject to being taken over one day.

With spring around the corner it may be time to lace up your hiking boots and explore for yourself.

Intersection and Its Home Rent With Problems

Telegraph Hill Dwellers who follow the local art scene may have already heard of the fight for survival by the non-profit theatre/gallery Intersection for the Arts. An issue all Hill Dwellers are intimately familiar with, Intersection must pay rent beginning this April. The question is how much and if Intersection can survive.

Cheryl Burnett of Intersection talked with the *Semaphore* about the seriousness and delicate nature of the situation.

Intersection has been located at 756 Union Street since 1972 in a building owned by the San Francisco Methodist Mission. Originally a church-related organization, Intersection began to look for other funding sources once church funding dried up.

(continued on page 25)

Waterfront Update

Pier 45 Task Force

In 1981, the Port adopted a comprehensive Fisherman's Wharf Action Plan, designed to strengthen Fisherman's Wharf as a center for a revitalized commercial fishing industry and its authentic maritime character. The vitality of the wharf was to be enhanced for residents as well as tourists, correcting the imbalance between peak activities during the tourist season and slack periods at other times. Among the major features were a new breakwater and an extension of the Hyde Street Pier to provide for safe berthing of the fishing vessels and modern fish processing. Pier 45 was to include residential development, a hotel, open space, and a research center for training fishermen on up-to-date processing techniques.

The breakwater is in the process of realization, but legal restrictions, enforced by the State Lands Commission, prevent the development of private residential development over land that is part of the "public trust." The Port has therefore appointed a Task Force to submit a new land use program for Pier 45. The 21 participants on this committee represent a well-balanced cross-section of organizations, including THD.

Revision of Pier 7?

In our last *Semaphore*, we reported the authorization of working drawings for the open space and fishing on Pier 7. Unfortunately, technical miscalculations turned out to have resulted in underestimated costs. A proposal has been made to reduce the width of the pier from 35 to 20 feet and to eliminate considerable platform space at its mid-section.



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The THD Waterfront Committee believes it essential that the length of the pier is not reduced. Major efforts should be made to find additional funding to restore the width of the pier.

Neighborhood Night at Symphony

Music lovers among the THD enjoyed an exciting evening at the San Francisco Symphony last month. The occasion was the All San Francisco Concert at Davies Hall.

The annual event, underwritten by the Wells Fargo Foundation, features low-cost tickets (\$5 per person) for a special concert exclusively for San Francisco neighborhood organizations. The event was a sell-out. THD co-chair Sally Hartzell and Sue Cauthen sold 70 tickets for the gala performance. Conductor Edo de Waart presided over a lively musical program, which included Hayden's Symphony No. 97, Schumann's Symphony No. 4, and Mozart's Oboe Concerto in C, highlighting the talents of oboist William Bennett.

The event was such a success the THD plans to participate again next year.



Foreign Languages Classes at Fort Mason

Fort Mason Art and Community College Center has a new director, Dan Peck. Dan has many years of experience with the San Francisco Community College District and was most recently Assistant Director of the Chinatown-North Beach Community College Center at 940 Filbert Street.

Dan's intent is to make Fort Mason's class offerings respond to the interest of a wider segment of San Francisco and particularly relate to the many culturally rich, ethnically-oriented neighborhoods of our city.

Beginning mid-February, innovative foreign language classes for pairs of parent and child (over 5 years) will open. The new program will be called the "Young People's Institute for Foreign Language and the Arts." These nine-week classes will meet from 4-5:30 two days a week and will include a wide variety of enrichment activities. Singing and role playing in the foreign language will be emphasized throughout the program. This is an ideal preparation for travel, living abroad, or enrolling a child in a bilingual school. The \$90 fee for this course is much less than commercial rates, and the teachers hold master's degrees in the foreign language and state-certified community college credentials. While the first language offerings will be Italian and/or German, other languages such as French, Spanish, Mandarin and Japanese will be available depending on demand.

These classes are in addition to regularly scheduled art, business, foreign language and ESL classes for adults offered at Fort Mason, Galileo and North Beach-Chinatown Community College sites. If there is enough interest, additional adult Italian or French classes will be offered at the Filbert Street site. Please call 776-8247 or 775-5579.



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39 Bus Rides Again

The Telegraph Hill Dwellers were victorious in their effort to retain the Fisherman's Wharf portion of the 39 bus route.

MUNI had asked the Public Utilities Commission for permission to lop off the segment of the run which operates between Washington Square and the Wharf area, contending that light ridership made the service an economic liability.

In 1979, the Fisherman's Wharf extension was added to the regular service between Coit Tower and Union and Montgomery in an effort to alleviate the massive traffic jams that regularly clog Telegraph Hill Boulevard. The idea was to encourage tourists to use MUNI instead of their automobiles.

A THD contingent told the PUC that the reason the plan failed was that MUNI had done nothing to publicize the service. The PUC, while sympathetic, sided with MUNI and voted unanimously to discontinue the Fisherman's Wharf segment of the run.

However, the Board of Supervisors' permission is required before MUNI can terminate service, and THD mounted a campaign to convince the board to support its position. Our presentation was made at a hearing before the full board, and, thanks to assistance from Supervisors Molinari and Walker, the board voted unanimously to continue the present service.

The Supervisors directed MUNI to: 1) launch a campaign to provide adequate publicity for the service; 2) work with THD, the Fisherman's Wharf Merchants, and the Convention and Visitors Bureau on the project; and 3) report back to the board in May.

Jaimie Levin, MUNI's director of community affairs, met last week with Nan Roth and Sue Cauthen to discuss a plan of action. Communication between MUNI and THD will continue as efforts to increase tourist ridership are implemented.

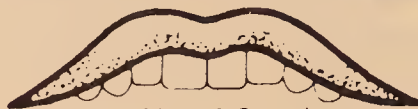
THD is grateful to the many members of our community who assisted us in our effort to fight Telegraph Hill traffic by encouraging use of public transportation.

THD Welcomes New and Reinstated Members

Greta Alexander
 Pamela Belknap
 Ron Boring
 Edith Caldwell
 Candace Crockett
 Colleen Curry
 Lottie Da
 Elmo & Ann DeMartini
 Sandra L. Liaz
 Neil Fitelson
 Michael S. Harkin
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 Scott R. King
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Editor's Note: The tree mentioned below has been planted and is thriving in Washington Square Park.

Friends of Recreation and Parks
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November 22, 1984

Dear Friends,

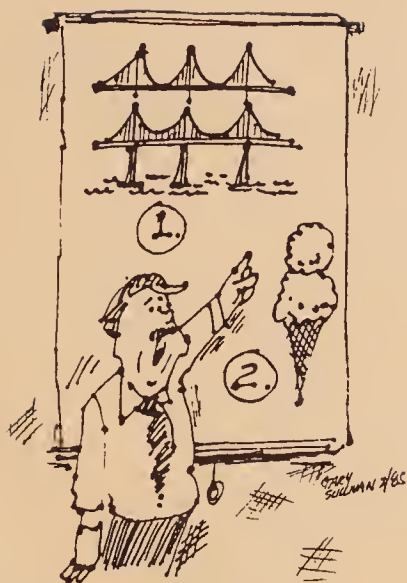
On this Thanksgiving Day, I'd like to give thanks to our beautiful city and to the Telegraph Hill Dwellers by contributing a cedar tree for Washington Square Park. We have chosen a beautiful Cedrus Deodara and have made arrangements with John Huttinger for the planting.

Washington Square has always been a focal point throughout our lives. We helped with the park remodeling and carnival in 1957, fought off the Washington Square underground garage in 1966 and again in 1976, fought the freeway in 1968 (both would have destroyed our park), and were there to bury the 100-year time capsule in 1979.

I wish to dedicate this tree to my son, Andy, and all the children who romp and play, to my friends who have given me so much. Let all of us enjoy its lush evergreen now and in the years to come.

Sincerely,
Nancy Katz





WHICH WOULD YOU
RATHER HAVE?

Double Decker at the Bridge

Among the unfortunate proposals that come back time and time again is a proposal for a second deck on the Golden Gate Bridge—this time “for buses only.”

Historically, the THD have always argued against measures that would increase the flow of automobile traffic into the Marina, Russian Hill, and North Beach. A second deck for buses would allow increased access for private cars as well, as would added lanes for Doyle Drive between the bridge and the Marina. Neither of these proposals would encourage people to leave their cars and use public transit. As a matter of fact, the number of cars with just one person crossing the bridge has already increased in recent months. This trend should be *reversed*, not encouraged.



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Filbert Steps Historic District

On January 21, the Board of Supervisors led by Supervisor Maher gave final approval to a resolution initiating designation of a historic district for the area bounded by Montgomery, Greenwich, Sansome, and the properties on both sides of Alta Street.

Telegraph Hill residents have long been frustrated by their inability to formally identify and better preserve the unique historic heritage that is so well exemplified in this particular area. At long last meaningful steps have been taken toward achieving these goals, and while much still needs to be done, a dedicated effort on the part of the neighborhood in the next few months can result in final approval of the historic district by the end of July.

Designation under Article 10 of the Planning Code involves a relatively simple process of documentation as compared with the much more complex requirements for National Registry Designation. While the cost of approximately \$4,000 to have the work done is modest, it represents our income from dues for an entire year. Thus funding is our most immediate critical issue, and a good part of the cost will have to be raised from other sources. Heritage has offered to assist us in many ways including accepting donations directed to Heritage (which qualifies the donation as tax-deductible) but specifically designated for the Filbert Steps Historic District. Heritage presently acts as the recipient and administrator of grant funding for the THD.

Another issue that will be brought before the THD Board at its February meeting is the possible expansion of the district boundaries to include those portions of the Greenwich and Filbert steps and Alta Street west of Montgomery and to extend the Sansome boundary south to Green, west to Montgomery, and north on Montgomery to Alta. This can be done for only \$500-1000 more in research costs.

The historic documentation will focus on pre-fire and environmental features. The expanded district would more closely follow the boundaries of that part of the hill that survived the 1906 fire and allow the inclusion of significant additional properties.

Anyone having access to historic materials relating to this area should contact the Landmarks Committee through Nan Roth at 397-2176. Volunteers with time available during the day are also needed to help with clerical-type work. Hopefully we will have hearing dates available for the Spring edition of the *Semaphore*.

Old Spaghetti Factory Cafe Cease and Desist Order

Many neighbors have telephoned the Landmarks Committee to express their concern over modifications being made to the Green Street facade of Historic Landmark No. 127, the Old Spaghetti Factory Cafe. Inquires to the Landmarks Board revealed that the new owner had not made his plans known to the

oning Issues

board, much less gone through the required approval procedure. After repeatedly ignoring the Landmarks Board requests, the owner finally appeared before the board on December 5 and again on December 19, each time steadfastly refusing to comply with Article 10 procedures for review of proposed alteration—which of course by then had already been completed.

The owner was given until the end of January to meet with the Landmarks Board Design Review Committee to work out a resolution of the impasse. He made no effort to do so. A cease and desist order was issued by the City Attorney's office on February 1.

This is the first time since San Francisco's landmarks process was established that an

owner has defied the board in the carrying out of its responsibilities. Ultimately he can be fined \$500 per day for each day that the work has been in non-compliance. THD is working with all concerned to try to resolve the impasse to everyone's satisfaction. While we all appreciate the owner's efforts to repair and maintain a structure that was badly in need of work, the historic status of the building must be respected.

We would like to thank the people who took the time to call and keep us informed of the construction activities at 478 Green Street. Your concern enabled us to bring this matter to the board's attention in July, well before the more serious damage was done.



Meet Your Neighbor: Tom Cara

When asked what he thought about the Telegraph Hill Dwellers, Tom Cara exclaimed, "Best thing that ever happened on the hill!" Tom Cara should know. He was born "on the hill" and has lived here all of his life. He knew it when kids flew kites from the edge of the cliffs, played baseball in vacant lots, turned in milk bottles for a penny a piece at Fabian's German Delicatessen (where Mama's is now located), collected and sold wooden boxes so the residents could sit down and watch the fleet (WWI) come in, and when The Shadows was a Spanish grocery store.

Tom Cara's father was a foreman during the construction of the Flood and Phelan Buildings, and the Sutro Baths. Tom's father also contributed to the park where Coit Tower now stands. Under eminent domain, he sold a residential lot on Telegraph Place to the city for \$800.00. Proud of a family line that goes back to 1548 (before Italy was Italy), Tom Cara is also knowledgeable about the demographics of the place where he was born. Telegraph Hill was first settled by the Spanish, followed by a few Irish, and then the Italians. Tom's family was Piedmontese, and he noted that the majority of Italians came from Genoa but all groups, he said, got along, "and there was no Mafia," he added, laughing. But there was Prohibition. Each family was allowed to make 200 gallons of wine for home use. "Grappa" was forbidden.

Tom Cara went to Washington Grammar School. Once a year in February, the some 200 surviving students and family hold a reunion at the Italian Athletic Club on Stockton. After graduating from college in the middle of the Great Depression (1933), Tom became a wine salesman. During the course of these travels, he met his future wife



Mary, whose great grandparents arrived in S.F. from Genoa in 1855. (Mary's mother was born in Card Alley in 1894.) They've been married 45 years. They have two children and two grandchildren. They also have a very comfortable and pleasing home at 48 Edgardo Place, the second house built on the west side of the hill after 1906.

Speaking four languages, including Italian, French, and Spanish, Tom joined the Army (Military Intelligence) in 1942 and served in North Africa and Italy. He went in a private, came out a captain, and retired a colonel.

His first store was on Grant Avenue. It was a good location then because prior to the building of the Stockton tunnel Grant Avenue was the main thoroughfare from Market Street. His rent in 1947 was \$35.00 a month. He later moved his store to where Carol Doda now appears nightly—when Broadway was bona fide neighborhood where "everybody knew everybody else." In 1962 he bought the building where his current store is located at 517 Pacific. Owned and operated entirely by

him, his store was the first on the west coast to import culinary supplies from France, Spain, and Italy. (He noted that it was the U.S. G.I.'s in Italy during WWII who brought pizza to this country and espresso coffee to England.) His second son, Christopher Cara, after a ten year acting career in New York, now works with him at Thomas Cara, Ltd. His first son, Major Cara, lives in St. Louis.

Sensing, perhaps, that words may not effectively describe the tremendous changes he's seen, Tom Cara brought out a plaque on

which were engraved these words (referring to Telegraph Hill) by Robert Louis Stevenson: "Peak of the Wind."

As the three of us sat in Tom and Mary's gracious second floor living room with a wide, wonderful view of Russian Hill and the Bay, I thought what a special place "the hill" is for all of us.

Hale and hearty at 75, Tom Cara, who quit smoking 20 years ago, walks to work. That's caring for your environment too.

John D. Dolan

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Crime Prevention

The Crime Prevention Committee met at Lori Viti's in January for wine and cheese—and a brainstorming session.

In the discussion about what the committee and THD can do to reduce the incidence of crime in the area, a number of ideas surfaced, and the group decided that a meeting with the new police captain at Central Station would be valuable. Captain Scheffler has agreed to meet with the committee on March 4.

Some of the ideas proposed were:

- Offering an "escort service" to seniors.
- Offering classes to THD members on the use of Mace.
- Offering classes on crime prevention.

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- Patrolling the hill by automobile.
- Finding out what other neighborhoods to combat crime.

Bruno Iacopi

Bruno Iacopi, Telegraph Hill's butcher passed away last Fall. Long a fixture on Grant Avenue, his customers became friends whom he greeted with a quick smile and conversation that did more than pass the time of day. Telegraph Hill Dwellers will miss Bruno Iacopi.

Support Your Local Police!

Central Station has requested THD's involvement in the monthly community meetings held on the third Thursday of every month. The next meeting is on February 21st, at 8 p.m. The guest speaker will be Capt. Tom O'Donnell of the Parking and Traffic Control Division.

These meetings provide a great opportunity to express your ideas, and the police officers welcome all suggestions. Please try to attend.



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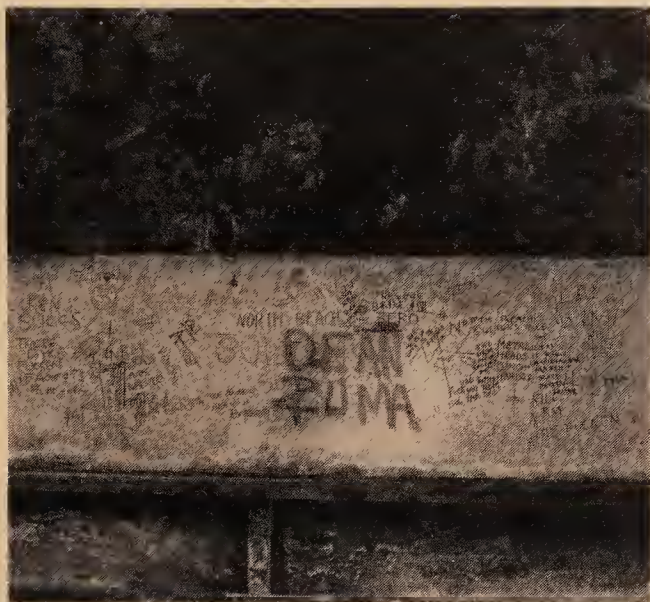
Coit Tower Refuse

Peter Dwares continues his battle for the city to clean up Coit Tower. After the Park and Recreation Department was presented with a lawsuit, they agreed to put in a maintenance man to sweep the mounting debris and litter three times a week. They also agreed to double the number of garbage pickups.



Debris at Coit Tower

Dwares is now going after the main objective: getting a highly visible full-time policeman on duty every night from eight p.m. until three a.m. Dwares says that kids drinking and racing up and down from the tower, breaking scores of bottles nightly, blasting car radios, vandalizing, and even beating people up must get the message once and for all. Dwares says that Coit Tower Park is becoming a badly abused city treasure. As a lawyer, Dwares feels the situation amounts to gross negligence on the part of the city. He urges all dwellers to put pressure on the mayor and supervisors.



Graffiti on the way up to Coit Tower

Project Read

Project Read, the adult literacy program of the San Francisco Public Library and the Friends of the Library, offers workshops to train volunteers in teaching English-speaking adults to read. Tutors attend twelve hours of basic training given by reading specialists from San Francisco's secondary and adult education programs. Volunteers make a commitment for at least a year and meet their students once or twice a week. Short absences are acceptable, since it is understood that tutors, like other people, enjoy occasional vacations. Those persons interested in joining the literacy effort but who are unable to make the tutoring commitment are welcome to volunteer for Project Read in other capacities, i.e., office, help, writing, recruiting, and assisting with the training classes. For further information, please contact, *Project Read*, 621-7323.



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In 1977, Intersection and SUMM negotiated a five year lease of \$800 per month. Actual payment of rent was waived, but this lease enabled Intersection to receive \$120,000 from the city of San Francisco for desperately needed building renovations. Intersection further contributed \$31,300 in insurance and building maintenance.

Intersection approached SUMM in October of 1983 to negotiate a new lease. Unfortunately, Intersection lacked the resources to meet the proposed lease agreement.

In December 1984, Intersection went to the community requesting letters of support to SUMM members, Art commissioners, and members of the S.F. Board of Supervisors. Intersection also requested strong financial support from its community. The tremendous community response has encouraged SUMM to meet with Intersection to again negotiate and has helped to keep Intersection solvent enough to be able to pay rent.

In a recent meeting with SUMM, Intersection proposed a monthly rent based on what it can afford and suggested that SUMM take into consideration Intersection's importance to the North Beach community and the Bay Area artist communities.

SUMM has agreed to present the current proposal to its Board of Directors in February, and Intersection remains optimistic. Intersection intends to continue its efforts to negotiate a rent agreeable to both parties. Readers seeking further information are encouraged to drop by Mon-Fri, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., or call 397-6061. April, 1985 is the day of reckoning.

Meditation Upon Devotion to a Cause

The long negotiation on 1171 Sansome have been a solid education for those who followed it through. We have learned that you can fight City Hall—and win, some. We have learned how to get information and circumvent some road blocks, who to consult at what stage, who can get certain results and who cannot. We have honed our organizational and speaking skills and have discovered excellent talents and resources in each other. We have also learned what kind of homework is needed. In short, we are far more sophisticated now than we were.

For example, several conditions we persuaded the Planning Commission to put on the permit arose from a previous project or from our own reading of the EIR. But we not only had to find out that we would initiate conditions and invent our own method of getting them written into the permit, we also now know we need to create a way to monitor whether these conditions will actually be followed.

The group who worked on 1171 Sansome form a resource. Each of us has a slightly different set of knowledge, but among us we have garnered nearly as much information as the chairs of the THD Zoning Committee back through the years.

The bad news is that this building will eventually go up, displacing some of the cliff and effacing it also. But the construction methods are supposed to be sound, and if followed, should not result in collapse. The building will not be 12 stories, but many fewer. We think we can defeat the parking variance.

(continued on page 31)

PLEASE TEAR OUT AND KEEP THIS PAGE FOR FUTURE REFERENCE!

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Board of Directors' Report

Motions Passed—October 17, 1984

To go on record in favor of the Kopp legislation as an interim measure for the billboard problem until such time as the Neighborhood Commercial Zoning is implemented in North Beach.

To increase the membership of THD to as large as we can make it.

Motions Passed—December 12, 1984

To petition rezoning that portion of the N.E. Waterfront Area presently zoned for an 84-foot height limit to a 40-foot limit.

To oppose the taller building at 1171 Sansome with the proviso that we advise the developer that we would like to support the smaller building subject to further parking studies being made in the area to define the extent of parking and traffic problems in the Sansome-Battery corridor.

To thank Peter Dewees for hosting an excellent holiday dinner for the Board of Directors.

Motions Passed—January 16, 1984

To oppose bus shelters in North Beach. (The Board of Supervisors will consider bus shelters for the entire city with 4 x 6 ft. ads to underwrite the cost of the shelters.)





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Francisco Place Reborn*

New developers, TRI and William Meyer, have taken over the Francisco Place project on the site of the Bauer-Schweitzer Malting Mill at 530 Francisco Street. The original proposal was for a 156,000 square-foot complex including 48,000 sf. of office space and 97 housing units. The new project includes a total architectural redesign, 240 condo units and 4,900 sf. of neighborhood-serving retail space. Studios and one bedroom units will make up 95% of the housing, whereas such units represented only 75% of the mix in the previous plan approved in August of 1982.

A committee was formed in November to review the new proposal. The major areas of concern identified were the high density residential, the emphasis on single-person occupancy, and the impacts on existing neighborhood traffic and parking problems. Additional issues involve phasing of the construction, inclusion of low/mod housing, the use of the 4,900 sf. of retail space, preservation of historic artifacts from the malting mill on site, and construction phase impacts.

Representative of our committee met with their counterparts from the North Beach Neighbors and sent two from each group to meet with the developers on December 18th. Hopefully some design modifications will result from these efforts. On the positive side, the new design includes a second silo and an architectural treatment that better retains the historic features of the 92- and 78-foot towers on Francisco Street. There will also be one less floor of subterranean parking, largely eliminating the serious excavation hazards of the previous scheme.

We will continue to follow this project closely through the permit process. Additional information is available through Nan Roth at 397-2176.

Thirtieth Anniversary Dinner Dance

THD friends and neighbors enjoyed a gala evening at the Thirtieth Anniversary Dinner Dance held at the Italian Athletic Club in November. Supervisor Nancy Walker presented Bob and Nancy Katz, who were honored at the event, with a special commendation from the city. The Social Committee chaired by Jeanne Milligan deserves a special thanks for arranging the evening and for the festive decorations. Photos are courtesy of member Stewart Bloom.





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THD Newsmakers

No one in the Telegraph Hill Dwellers needs an introduction to **Bob Katz**, a 34-year resident of the hill. Bob serves as chairman of the Waterfront Committee and probably knows more about the waterfront of San Francisco than anyone else in the city, including our government employees. He has been in the forefront fighting to preserve the cosmopolitan nature of the Hill and assure its historical continuity.

Improving the sense of community, controlling noise, and increasing the safety of residents are some of the goals that board member **Peter Dewees**, has for Telegraph Hill. An administrator in the educational field, Peter is also an accomplished jazz pianist (having entertained fellow board members at a recent Christmas party), and he enjoys skiing and the sociable atmosphere of the Hill.

Telegraph Hill's ethnic diversity, residential character, and human scale are some of the ingredients why journalist **Jerry Lubenow** and his family have resided on the Hill for the past sixteen years. In addition to his work for THD, Jerry has been active in programs for rebuilding the Garfield School and removing the Embarcadero Freeway.



Unimaginable amounts of development dollars are targeted on San Francisco, most of them from outside the country. The now foreseeable collapse of the opportunities of Hong Kong is only one contributing factor, but a big one. It thus behooves Dwellers, individually and as a group, to look with the developer's eye at likely sites and take preventive action, rather than only reacting to the pressures to exploit our neighborhood. There are many pressures now; we are run ragged just rushing around putting out fires. This will continue indefinitely unless we take action ourselves.

THD is presently looking at the entire San-some-Battery corridor in an effort to maximize amenities and minimize problems with cars, landslides, and view blockage. Also, a move is underway to preserve the best of the Filbert Steps area. Our move to landmark the cliffs is a step in the right direction. It is now buried in the City Attorney's office. Does anyone know how to get a favorable ruling on this?

M. Gwathmey


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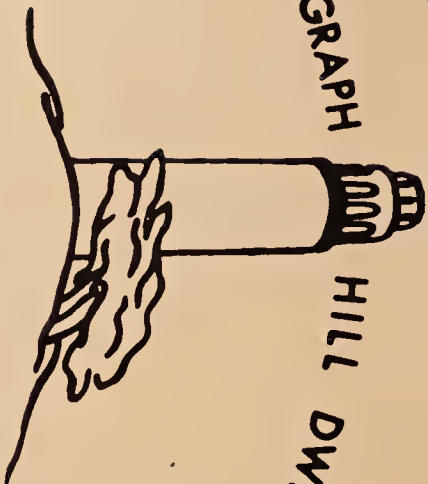


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